



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0603

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior and  
Environment and Related Agencies  
Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2162 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior and  
Environment and Related  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2065 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

As you begin crafting the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you prioritize the Indian Irrigation Fund authorized in Section 3211 of Public Law 114-322, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.

I urge the committee to strongly support the Indian Irrigation Fund to address the deferred maintenance needs and increase water storage for a number of already authorized projects. The Indian Irrigation Fund supports the Bureau of Indian Affairs irrigation projects to address safety and efficiency needs and direct attention to the differed maintenance requirements of tribes across the country.

The Colorado River Irrigation Project is a prime example. Although Congress has already directed the agency to spend this money, the tribes continue to be neglected. As a result, water and infrastructure projects in Colorado's Third Congressional District are operating at less than 60%. Additionally, the Pine River Indian Irrigation Project located in the San Juan National Forest provides irrigation to land owned by the Southern Ute Indians. This project is in need of resources as the irrigation systems have become dangerous in the past few years due to agency neglect. The projects need these resources to bring the entire operation up to safety code, such as installing handrails, securing crossings, and reinforcing areas where stream banks have eroded roads.

Thank you for your consideration of this requests and for your leadership on the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress